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HAWAII.

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SPEECH

OF

HON. JAMES F. STEWART,
OF NEW JERSEY,

IN THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

JUNE 13, 1898.

—•—
WASHINGTON.

1898.

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Mr. W. A. Smith

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SPEECH

OF

Mr. STEWART of New Jersey said:

Mr. SPEAKER: Our nation, now the envy and admiration of the world, has grown from a feeble confederacy of thirteen struggling States to its present posture of grandeur and importance not alone by its superiority of race, but by means of expansion of territory and by a very wonderful expansion of the means and methods of civilized life. Nations, like individuals, are a development, a growth, an expansion, an extension, an aggregation of means and methods.

The silly argument of national isolation, the outgrowth of fear and timidity, is lame and impotent. No colonial nation has been involved in war by reason of her colonial possessions until she became degenerate and lost the regard and allegiance of her colonies. Every nation must at all times be prepared to protect its citizens and interests abroad, and in order to do this we must have mid-stations as bases of supply and resort, in order that our just resentment against foreign nations may be sure and certain of management and control.

The argument that gentlemen make with reference to these islands not being contiguous is unworthy of support. They face and confront the whole Pacific coast, either frowning at us as a menace or smiling as a blessing. These islands are necessary if the Nicaragua Canal is to be built, a project soon to be consummated, and to be one of the greatest and most beneficent public works of modern times, and to be to us a glorious blessing or an egregious curse. Gentlemen on the other side, with tearful soli-

tude for our Constitution, and knowing our tender regard for that majestic instrument, interpose it as a bar, forgetful that such distinguished jurists as Marshall and Taney have justified the acquisition of foreign territory, indisputably, under the constitutional provisions of the treaty-making power and the right to declare and carry on war.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it was reserved to the scriptural gentleman from Missouri [Mr. CLARK] to fear the result of our contact with the degenerate inhabitants of Hawaii. If history is read aright the solemn lesson is taught that when the superior race comes in contact with the inferior the inferior must go to the wall or else be capable of development and advancement. The Indian is fast disappearing, like his favorite buffalo that he delighted to hunt and regretted to kill, while the negro race is advancing and growing in numbers, power, and importance. The doctrine of the survival of the fittest is as enduring as time itself and as certain.

Our country has arisen from lusty youth to vigorous manhood. We must share the responsibilities as well as the blessings of modern civilization. We must participate in the world's destiny. The stars of both hemispheres will light us on, and the clouds of both perchance at times will darkle in our path. The bitter and the sweet must both be partaken of. Sturdy manhood is used to both, and together are the reward and fruition of all ripe experience. The blessings of our free republican Government should not be selfishly isolated or hugged to our own bosoms alone, but the Stars and Stripes, amid the Pacific and Atlantic, should salute the dying dynasties of the Eastern World and bid them a cordial welcome and renewed life and a vigorous existence under its starry folds. [Applause.]

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